
Status Report on Smoke Detection Technologies

Joint Meeting of
BFPR and BBRS

October 11, 2007

NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*

NFPA Technical Committee on
Single- and Multiple-Station Alarms and
Household Fire Alarm Systems

Task Group on Smoke Detection Technologies

Reconstituted in March 2007 to evaluate information relative to the performance of specific types of detection and determine if NFPA 72 provides adequate life safety in its requirements for placement and usage of non-specific smoke detector technology

Task Group Scope

Evaluate available test reports and research

Consider tenability limits

Consider nuisance alarm issues

Consider the need for additional testing or research

Deliverables

Code proposals as appropriate

Technical position summary and
recommendations

Report to Technical Committee, then to
Technical Correlating Committee

Task Group Membership

Arthur Lee (Chair) – US CPSC

Oded Aron – Port Authority of NY/NJ

Bob Bourke – Int. Fire Marshals Assoc.

Wayne Boyd – US Safety & Eng Corp.

Dave Christian – AFAA

Tom Cleary – NIST

Jay Fleming – Boston Fire Dept.

Wendy Gifford – NEMA

Task Group Membership

Lynn Nielson – City of Henderson, NV

Steve Olenick – Combustion Science

Steve Orlowski – NAHB

John Parssinen – Underwriters Labs

Larry Ratzlaff – Kidde Safety

Don Russell – Texas A & M Univ.

Michael Savage – Middle Dept. Insp.
Agency

Jason Sutula – Combustion Science (alt)

Task Group Schedule

Status report made to Technical Committee
on September 13, 2007

Public proposals by November 2, 2007

Committee proposals with Task Group
recommendations by January 16, 2008

On-going as needed

Task Group Status Report

Several teleconferences to establish scope,
collect data and start evaluations

Face-to-face August meeting:

- Developed draft criteria to assess detector performance

- Considered the idea of adding performance criteria in NFPA 72 as basis for longer term product testing

- Established plan to use performance criteria to assess current detection technology based on updated NIST report.

Performance Criteria (Draft)

Fire Characteristic

Types of fires

Minimum Egress Time

Thermal

Toxicity

Visibility

Nuisance Alarms

Criteria for future testing

Remaining Task Group Steps

Updated NIST Report to Task Group

Work on finalizing performance criteria

Assess current technology

Task group to prepare revisions for NFPA 72
as appropriate and/or technical position
summary and recommendations

Remaining Task Group Steps

Task group to present to full Technical Committee at January 16, 2008 meeting

Task group to continue efforts as needed through the remaining process

Processing of NFPA 72-2010

TC Report on Proposals Meeting –
January 16-18, 2008

TCC Report on Proposals Meeting –
April 22-25, 2008

ROP Posted – June 20, 2008

Comment Closing Date – August 29, 2008

TC Report on Comments Meeting –
October 20-24, 2008

Processing of NFPA 72-2010

TCC Report on Comments Meeting –
January 6-8, 2009

ROC Posted – February 24, 2009

Intent to Make Motion (NITMAM) closing
– April 3, 2009

Annual Meeting – June 1-3, 2009

Standard Council Issuance – July 31, 2009

NFPA 72-2010 available September 2009